

Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Quinquagesima
March 2nd, 2025

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DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING ONE (LSB 151)

As you are seated, please prepare your heart through prayer and self-reflection.

Recognition of Area Firefighters

Hymn of Invocation: Father Most Holy

LSB 504

Invocation, Confession & Absolution

LSB 151

Introit (Spoken Responsively)

Ps. 31:1, 5, 9, 16; antiphon: Ps. 31:2b-3

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!

**For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.**

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!

**Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.**

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;
my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.

**Make your face shine on your servant;
save me in your steadfast love!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!

For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

Kyrie, Gloria in Excelsis, Salutation

LSB 152

Collect of the Day

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament: The Ransomed Shall Return

Isaiah 35:3-7

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and

the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Gradual

Psalm 77:14-15

You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph.

Epistle: The Way of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Tract (Replaces the Alleluia and Verse)

Psalm 100:1-3

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Holy Gospel: Jesus Foretells His Death a Third Time

Luke 18:31-43

³¹ And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³² For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. ³³ And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise." ³⁴ But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said. ³⁵ As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. ³⁷ They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." ³⁸ And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹ And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰ And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." ⁴² And Jesus said to

him, “Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.”⁴³ And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Apostles’ Creed	LSB 192
Hymn of the Day: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus	LSB 685
Sermon, Prayer of the Church, Offering	
Offertory: We Give Thee But Thine Own	LSB 781, Stz. 1 & 2
Lord’s Prayer, Collect, Benediction	
Hymn to Depart: Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good	LSB 819

Announcements

What Does This Mean? Quinquagesima comes from the Latin word for “fiftieth.” Quinquagesima is approximately fifty days from Easter and is the last Sunday prior to the Season of Lent, which start this Wednesday. Additionally, this Sunday trumpets the Reformation theme of “Faith Alone.”

Ash Wednesday: Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, March 5th. As we begin the penitential Season of Lent on this day, there will be a Divine Service that evening at 7pm.

TONIGHT - First Sunday Family Night: All members are invited over to the preschool TONIGHT at 5:30pm for our First Sunday Family Night. Join us for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Pulled pork will be provided. Members are welcome to bring a side dish. Also, feel free to bring your favorite games to share. This family night is for our entire Bethlehem family, and so, we hope to see you all there!

Catechism Learn-by-Heart Program: Congratulations to William and Lily Jennings for completing Level 2 of the Catechism Learn-by-Heart Program. Also, congratulations to Silas Jennings for completing Levels 1 and 2. Level 1 includes reciting the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer. Level 2 includes reciting the primary texts of Baptism. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

Lenten Devotional: Throughout the Season of Lent, we will be reading through the Large Catechism. While we did this for Lent last year, it’s good for us to read through it again and again. Luther writes, “I am also a doctor and preacher, yea, as learned and experienced as all...yet I do as a child who is being taught the Catechism, and every morning, and whenever I have time, I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the Psalms, etc. And I must still read and study daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and student of the Catechism, and am glad so to remain.” So this Lent, let us continue to be students of the catechism, and joyfully read and take to heart this blessed gift that our church boldly confesses. For those who don’t have a copy, you may access it online

at www.bookofconcord.org or the church can order you a hard copy. If you would prefer a hard copy, please let Pastor Jennings or Dena know.

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper to benefit CORLHS: Will be on March 5th from 5:15 pm - 6:45 pm in the school basement. There will be Chili, Vegetable, and Potato Soup available. There will be a free will offering for Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School. Please join us in food and fellowship before church at 7 pm that evening. Let's make our Lenten Services a priority this year. Donations of Crackers, Cheese, veggies, fruits, and some cookies, or brownies for desserts would be a blessing! If anyone would like to donate an item for the meal, please sign up in the church office or talk to Deb Albers, items can be brought on March 2nd or by 4:45 that night. There is no particular group sponsoring this event, but this is a good way to support our high school!

Pinochle/Euchre Tournament: On Friday, March 7th, the Ladies Aid will be hosting a Pinochle/Euchre Tournament in the school basement. Doors open at 6:30pm and play starts at 7:00pm. The cost is \$15.00. Snacks and drinks will be provided. To register contact Dena Brammeier at 618-304-4564.

Thank You: On behalf of CORLHS Board, I would like to thank Bethlehem Lutheran Church for continuing the mission of sponsoring the Ash Wednesday soup supper at our church to benefit CORLHS. Over the past ten years, 100% of the free will offering was donated to COR. In the past, Sam and I certainly did not sponsor this entire meal on our own! We had many members of the Ladies Aid and other members and families donate countless food items as well as their time which made this event possible and was very much appreciated! Blessings in Christ, Angie Siddell.

Thank You: Thank you for the cards, letters, flowers, phone calls, visits, and most of all prayers that I received during my recent illness; from Pastor Jennings, Friends, and Family. That was definitely the highlight of several months for me, and I am very grateful for all of your kindness. Angie Siddell

Thank You: I would like to say thank you to everyone who called, sent cards ,brought food, gave memorials, and even drove the distance to the funeral. We were overwhelmed with the love you have shown us in our grief. We are so very blessed to have such a loving church family. We appreciate all of you. Diane and Jerry Buening

Thank You to our local Firefighters: Prior to the Divine Service this morning, the local firemen will be recognized. We are grateful for their many hours of volunteer services to keep our community safe and to assist in all times of peril. God be praised for their services! A meal for the volunteers and their families will follow in the service.

Men's Club Meeting: There will be a Men's Club meeting Monday, March 3rd in the school basement at 7:00pm. Servers for the meeting are Tim Hanke and Steve Haun.

Braille Team: On Tuesday, March 4th at 9:00am the Braille Team will be making books in New Minden. If anyone is interested, please contact Ronda Zimmermann at 553-6206

This Week in Our Congregation:

Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School
9:30am Divine Service
5:30pm First Sunday Family Night
Monday: 7:00pm Men's Group
Wednesday: 5:15-6:45pm Soup Supper
5:45pm Wednesday Religion Class
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Divine Service
Friday 7:00pm Pinochle/Euchre Tournament
Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School
9:30am Divine Service